

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
a scavenging blade;
a printed wiring board receiving portion; and
a movement mechanism adapted to move the scavenging blade and printed wiring board receiving portion relative to each other.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is adapted to remove fill material which accumulates on the blade during the relative movement of the scavenging blade and printed wiring board.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the system comprises a printed wiring board positioned on the printed wiring board receiving portion, the printed wiring board having both first and second substantially planar surfaces that are substantially parallel to each other and at least one filled hole extending from the first surface to the second surface.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the scavenging blade is positioned adjacent to the first surface, between a first end and a second end of the printed wiring board, and divides the first surface into a first area and a second area, wherein the first area comprises at least one hole containing fill material extending outward from the printed wiring board for a distance substantially greater than the distance separating the scavenging blade from the printed wiring board, and the second area comprises a plurality of holes containing fill material, none of which have fill material extending outward from the printed wiring board for a distance substantially greater than the distance separating the scavenging blade from the printed wiring board.
5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a filling mechanism wherein the scavenging blade is not part the filling mechanism.

Scavenging System

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6. The system of claim 5 wherein the scavenging blade moves independently from the filling mechanism.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein the scavenging blade is coupled to the filling mechanism.
8. The system of claim 5 wherein the filling mechanism is a squeegee or pressure head.
9. The system of claim 1 wherein the scavenging blade is polished, flexible, and sharpened along at least one edge such that it has a width less than or equal to approximately .003 inches.
10. The system of claim 10 wherein the system further comprises:
two guide rails extending along opposite sides of the receiving portion;
a crossbar coupled to two bearing blocks with one of the two bearing blocks being
slideably coupled to one of the two guide rails, and the other of the two
bearing blocks being slideably coupled to the other guide rail; and
a clamping device clamping the scavenging blade to the crossbar.
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the blade is pivotably coupled to the two guide rails.